

THE POWER TO PRODUCE WEALTH PART 01

Wealth, Divine & Demonic

SCRIPTURE READING:

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

- Deuteronomy 8:10-18

This passage is at the heart of the series. In it, Moses begins to prepare Israel for the blessings of prosperity that they would soon receive in the Promised Land. The clear message of this passage is that blessing is a dangerous thing: it can cause us to forget and separate ourselves from the One who grants us the blessing. In the context of the passage, the coming blessings are not a maybe: they are a done deal. God has promised them, and Israel will receive them. The point of the passage is, follow these three steps to get your blessing. Instead,

the message is, when you get the blessings that you will surely receive, make sure they don't separate your heart from God.

It would be good for each of us, from the outset of this series, to hear this message as the Israelites heard it and receive it at face value, as the Israelites did. You are going to be blessed! God has ear-marked sure blessings for you that you haven't worked for or earned in any way. And he's giving you the power to produce wealth. The commitment God is looking for from us is to keep our hearts pure and not allow the blessing to corrupt us.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to believe that you are more invested in our blessing, our breakthrough, and our prosperity than we are. And in doing so, help us to fully trust you to bring it to pass. And when you do, protect our hearts so that we do not forget you, the Author of our every blessing and the Perfecter of our every faith-provoked endeavor. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. "The bible begins in a garden, but ends in a city. The Garden was always supposed to become the City." What do you imagine that city would be like had Adam and Eve not sinned?
2. "So it seems our choice is between poverty or idolatry." While this is an extreme statement, and the odds are none of us identify fully with one or the other, we all have a bent either toward the hopelessness of poverty or the allure of riches. Which category would you say most applies to you, and why?
3. "The strategy of the serpent was to isolate Eve, to get her alone; not just in the absence of Adam, but in the absence of God. He convinced her that she could succeed on her own and that God and Adam would just be in the way." Do you identify with this at all? In what ways has the serpent sought to isolate you, and

what do you feel is the outcome he is after?

4. "It is important for you to believe that God has called you to build wealth according to his plan because otherwise you will believe that you must separate yourself from God in order to build wealth." How easy is it for you to believe that God desires to empower you to create wealth? Or do you have a tendency to feel that this is something that you have to do on your own? Does your desire to build wealth every make you feel guilty before God?
5. "Divine wealth builds relationships, demonic wealth destroys them." What would it look like for you to build divine wealth? What would your primary relationships look like?
6. Has this lesson inspired you to think/act in any way that differs from the way you thought/acted before hearing the message?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, deliver us both from the hopelessness of poverty and from the love of money. And deliver us into your righteousness so that we might fully believe you to be the one who gives us the power to create wealth. Lord, as we walk toward your blessings, let nothing separate us from your heart. May our primary relationships (with you, with our families, and with ourselves) remain the priority of our lives. Teach us to build wealth together! Don't allow the serpent to isolate any of us! We thank you, we submit to you, and we trust you. And it's in your name that we pray these things, Amen.